

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

Presenter: Sarah Manikas Rech,
M.Ed, LPC, LMHC, Certified PK-12 School Counselor
LCC Day School, St. Petersburg, Florida
srech@lccdayschool.com

**BOY
BRAINS**



**GIRL
BRAINS**

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE:

Male Brain	Female Brain
Hard wired for building and understanding	Hard wired for empathy
Value power and competition	Value altruistic, reciprocal relationships
When listening, neurons on only one side of the brain are activated	While listening, neurons on both sides of the brain are activated
In interpretation of whole sentences, men use one side of the brain only	In interpretation women use both sides of the brain

BOYS VS GIRLS:



So, What's the Difference Between Boys and Girls?



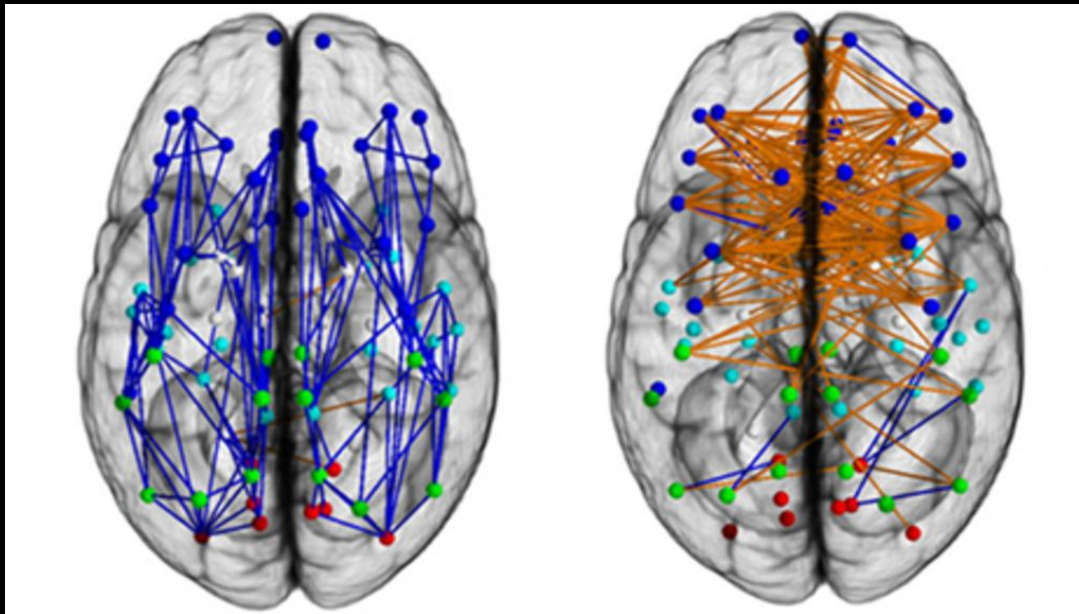
TURN TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU AND ASK...

1. Why are we more concerned about boys?
2. Identify a boy who struggles this school year?
3. Identify a girl who struggles this school year?
4. How are they different?

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?



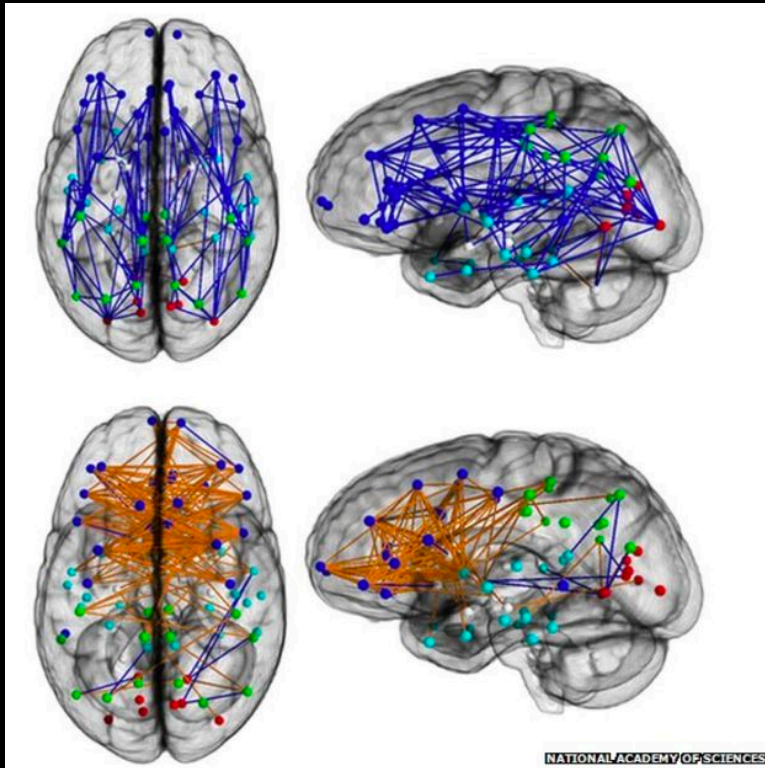
Male
Brain



Female
Brain

Notice the pre-frontal lobe cortex is vastly different. This is where motor skills, logical thinking, behavior, choices and memory are located.

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?



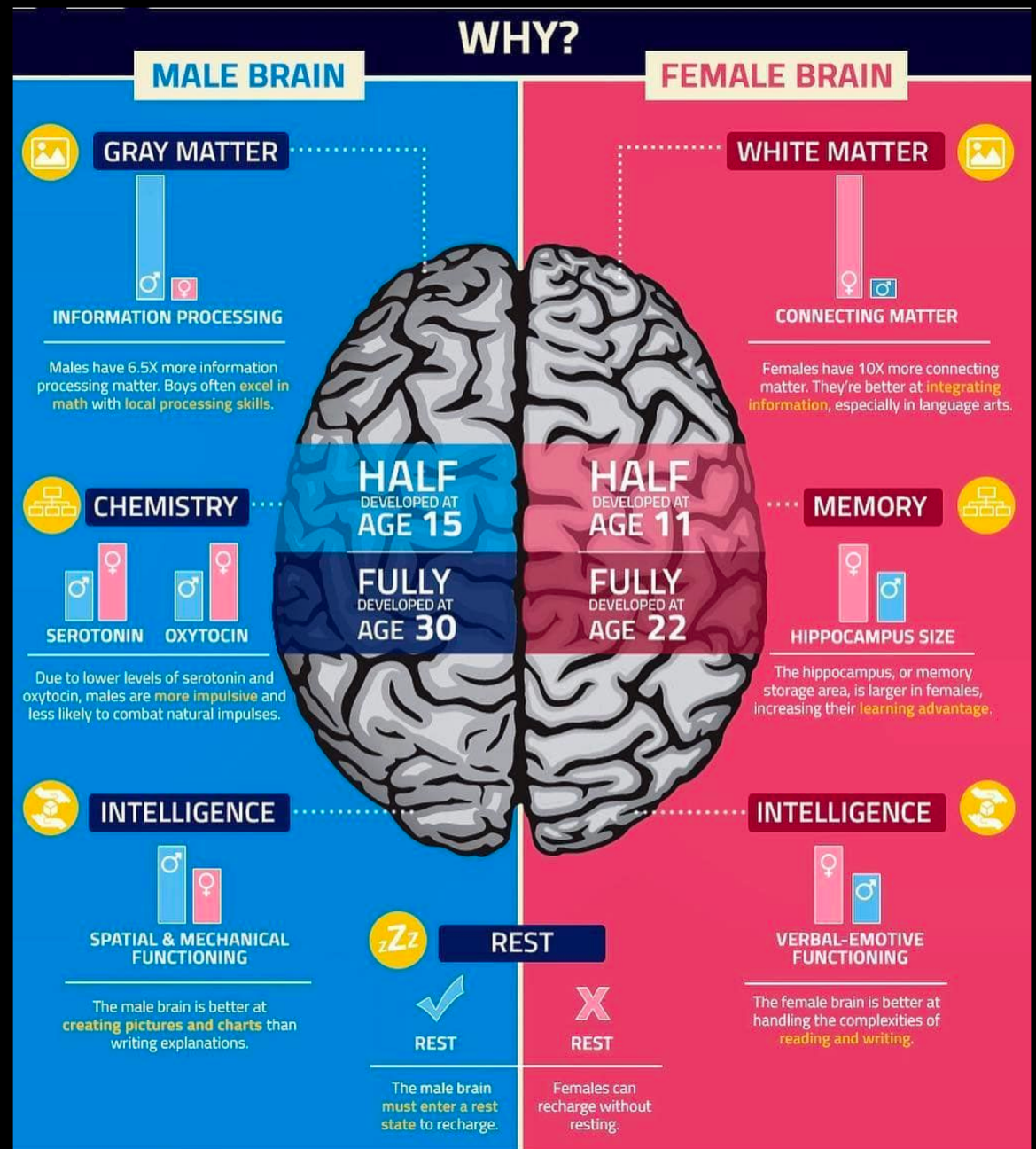
There are significant differences between the function and structure of boys and girls; which can affect their learning process.

Male brains appeared to be wired front to back, with few connections bridging the two hemispheres.

In females, the pathways crisscrossed between left and right.

These differences might explain why men, in general, tend to be better at learning and performing a single task, like cycling or navigating, whereas women are more equipped for multitasking, say the researchers in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

SO... WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?





IMPLICATIONS FOR BOYS

- Cognitive – What was he thinking?
- Emotional – Why did he do that?
- Social Development – Boy Code vs. Bro Code

WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

- Cognitive Development
 - Boys show higher activity level from infancy onward
 - Boys are more spatial and less verbal
 - Boys are literal, objective and problem solvers
 - Boys are more physically aggressive and assertive
 - Boys have tunnel vision when deeply engaged in a task

WHY DOES HE DO THAT?

- Males:
 - Gross motor skills develop faster
 - They hear 20% less
 - Visually see movement over detail
 - Slower to develop language skills
 - Deductive, literal, wants proof
 - Competitive
 - Prefers large group activities

WHY DOES HE DO THAT?

- Males cont.:
 - Slower to form bonds
 - Does not want or does not seek help easily
 - Slow to express emotions
 - Prefers to complete one task at a time
 - Shuts down when too many words are shared
 - Needs more processing time, may take hours or days.



IMPLICATIONS FOR GIRLS

- Cognitive – What was she thinking?
- Emotional – Why did she do that?
- Social Development – The Pineapple Club

WHY DOES SHE DO THAT?

- Females:
 - Fine motor skills develop earlier
 - Develop language skills earlier
 - Have better hearing
 - Visually see more details and colors
 - Inductive and subjective
 - Cooperative

WHY DOES SHE DO THAT?

- Females:
 - Prefer small group activities
 - Form friends quickly
 - Will seek help
 - Quick to express emotions
 - Intuitive and trusting
 - Able to multi task

WHY DOES HE DO THAT?

- Males in the US are not succeeding academically.
 - 100 girls vs. 217 boys in Special Ed
 - 100 girls vs. 276 boys have learning disabilities
 - 100 girls vs. 324 boys have emotional problems
- Boys need positive MALE role models.
This does not have to be their father. But they need to be taught to be a “good” man.

BOY CODE VS. BRO CODE

In popular culture, the **Bro Code** is a friendship etiquette to be followed among men or, more specifically, among members of the **bro** subculture. The term has been popularized by Barney Stinson, a character from the television show *How I Met Your Mother*.





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A “MAN” IN THIS WORLD TODAY?

- Consistent
- Responsible
- Trustworthy
- Thoughtful
- Caring
- Romantic
- Spiritual
- Works
- Confident
- Sensitive
- Emotional
- Role Model

WHERE DOES A BOY LEARN TO BE A “REAL” MAN?



“BE A MAN”

- “Be a Man” is one of the most destructive phrases in the English language.

We tell them:

- Don't Cry
- Don't Show Emotion
- Don't Tattle Tale
- Don't Talk About It
- Be a Womanizer
- Fight Back
- Be Dominate
- Don't Let People Disrespect You

YOUNG **BOYS** ARE HEARING MIXED MESSAGES.



WHAT DOES THE “MODERN DAY MAN” LOOK LIKE?

- Be successful
- Be athletic and strong
- Have a great job
- Be in a relationship
- Have lots of money
- Drive a nice car



SO WHO ARE THEIR ROLE MODELS?

- Professional Athletes
- Celebrities
- Rap Stars
- Coaches
- Teachers
- Fathers



ROLE MODELS

- Fathers who are active in their son's life are less aggressive, less competitive, better to express feelings of vulnerability and sadness.
- Boys with good role models are able to show empathy, be compassionate, set limits on aggression, be successful in school.
- Boys whose role models stay close to them are more likely to finish high school, go to college or higher level of education and get jobs.



BRO CODE VS. BOY CODE

- So what is the difference?
- How do we transition from one to the other?

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- When disciplining boys, give them time to process what they did.
- Boys are more likely to respond to anger physically and get punished for their actions.
- When you discipline with anger they don't always get the message because they focus on your anger. Allow for the "timed-silence syndrome"



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- Boys lag behind girls verbally and mature more slowly. The best communication with males is while you are doing something else.
- Males tend to communicate in verbs, females in nouns and details.
- The “boy code” sets the stage for a boy’s emotional pain, anger, and rage.
- Boys are shame phobic. Girls are shame sensitive.



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- Work on developing empathy with boys, understanding others' points of view.
- Talk about the role of males in different cultures and time periods. Compared to roles of males today.
- Help boys develop a feeling vocabulary. Insist on boys using words to express feelings.



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- Draw attention to stereotypes wherever and whenever they are detected.
- Talk about the **Boy Code**
- Teach your boy about masculinity by teaching them about the men you admire and why you admire them.



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- Boys are bigger. Males need more space and movement in the classroom.
- Boys are competitive. They are going to jump up and touch a door frame.
- Boys need a “rest state”. Too much talking overloads them. Stop talking and let another student explain it.



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- Boys work great in pairs. More than two and the “alpha male” syndrome kicks in.
- Boys need praise in private. Deliver the message and get out of the way.
- Hit the “control, alt, delete” buttons when working with boys.



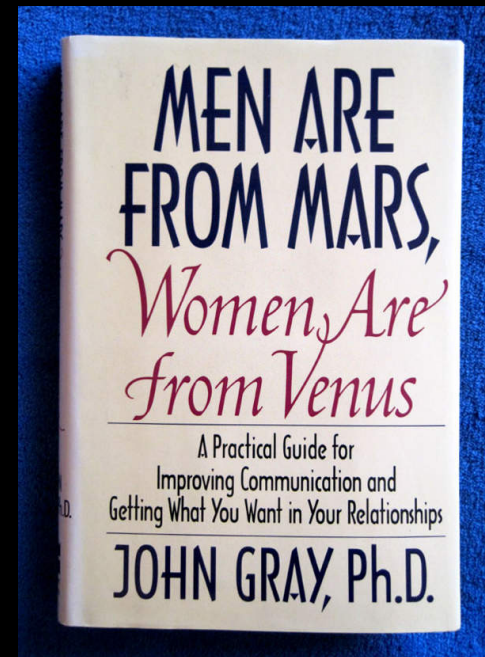
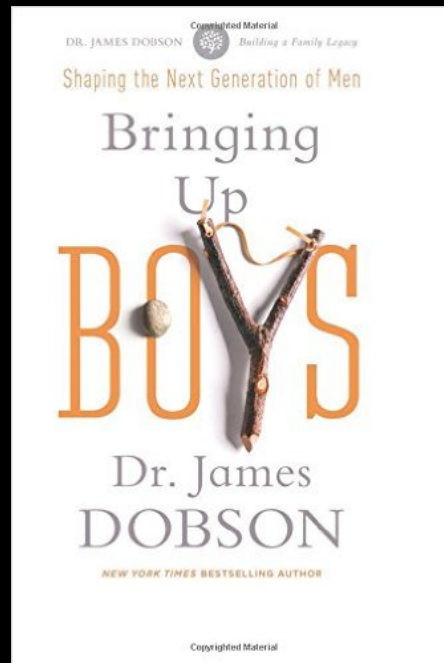
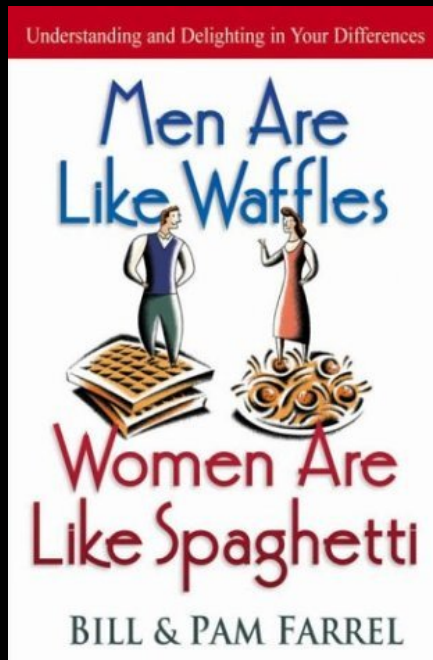
TIPS FOR WORKING WITH BOYS

- When a boy hurts, ask him if he would like to talk.
- Avoid shaming a boy if he refuses to talk to you.
- Honor a boy's need for timed silence.
- When a boy seeks to reconnect, try to be there for him, connect by doing things together.

THE GURIAN INSTITUTE

- The Gurian Institute provides brain-based, research-driven, strategies-focused professional development, consulting, and training. <https://gurianinstitute.com/>
- *The Gurian Institute's approach teaches brain-based learning theory that recognizes gender differences in learning and combines the theory with effective strategies that bring out the best in both genders. Our implementation of the superb Gurian Institute methods proves that ALL students can achieve proficiency if teaching is directed at how they learn best."*
- **--Jackie Bedwell Elementary Teacher, Boulder, Colorado**

BOOK SUGGESTIONS:



SOURCES:

- P.E.A.C.E Skills, Inc., Jim Littlejohn
- <http://www.slideshare.net/donthuraj/male-and-female-brain-what-constitutes-the-gender>
- Jimmy Kimmel: “What’s the Difference Between Boys and Girls?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkTb3Y1CDcA>
- The Mask You Live In
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc45-ptHMxo>
- DTI images of the brain provided by The National Academy of the Sciences
- Michael Gurian, <https://gurianinstitute.com/>

FCIS Annual Convention

Orlando 2019

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Share your
reflections and
takeaways with the
FCIS community!
#FCISConv2019

- 1) Download the **EVENTMOBI APP** from an app store.
- 2) Open the app and select **2019 FCIS CONVENTION**.
- 3) Select the **THURSDAY** button.
- 4) Select the **SESSION TITLE**.
- 5) Scroll down to **SESSION FEEDBACK**.
- 6) Respond to the **3-QUESTION SURVEY**.

